



Illustration by Jeanne R. Janish,
From 'Vascular Plants of the Pacific Northwest'

ERIOGONUM CAESPITOSUM

MAT BUCKWHEAT

Mat Buckwheat is a low perennial that forms cushions up to 5 cm high, with a branched, woody rootcrown. The alternate, oblong leaves are 10-15 mm long, including the petiole, have entire, downturned margins, and persist on the stem after withering. The foliage is covered with long, gray hairs. The numerous flowers are borne in crowded, globose inflorescences atop leafless stalks that are 3-8 cm high. Flowers arise from a solitary, cup-shaped involucre with 6-7 reflexed lobes. Each flower has 6 yellow and rose, petal-like perianth segments that are 3-5 mm long. The perianth segments are united below and taper to a hairy woolly base. Flowering in June.

The tapered, stalk-like perianth and the solitary involucre distinguish this species from other mat-forming *ERIOGONUM*.